SUB E4 D1

leading the thus coated substrates between a pair of belts of a low pressure double belt press;

applying heat to fuse the coatings between the belts;

smoothing the fused coatings between a pair of nipping rollers to provide a layer of desired thickness; and

cooling the layer.

N.E. previously canceled. See Amdt B

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fused coatings are smoothed by leading the fused coatings between a nipping means.

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19. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 including the steps of:

scattering a first thermoplastic material onto a first belt;

applying the first substrate over the thermoplastic material,

wherein said scattering of powder, granules or pellets onto a first substrate comprises scattering a second thermoplastic material onto the first substrate ; and

further wherein said applying heat to the belts to fuse the coatings comprises fusing the thermoplastic material to form a backing layer on one face of the first substrate and a saturation or basecoat layer on the other face of the first substrate.

20. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 19 wherein the second thermoplastic material forms a saturation layer and the method includes the steps of:

scattering a third thermoplastics material over the saturation layer;

leading the substrates between a pair of belts; and

D2 SUB E14

applying heat to the belts to fuse the third thermoplastic material to form a basecoat layer on the saturation layer.

D3 SUB E14

22. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the substrates are cooled, after fusing by leading the pair of belts through a cooling station.